



SEN Teaching Assistant (1:1 Support) – Early Years

Grade: H1/H2

Main purpose

To provide 1:1 support for a pupil with complex Special Educational Needs in our Early Years provision under the direction, guidance and direct supervision of the SENDCO and classroom teacher.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide consistent 1:1 support throughout the school day, adapting provision in response to the child's needs.
- Deliver individualised, multi-sensory learning activities and support engagement in both adult-led and child-led play.
- Use a total communication approach, including gesture, objects of reference, visuals and Makaton.
- Implement Intensive Interaction and communication strategies to develop early interaction and shared attention.
- Support the child to regulate emotions and manage behaviours that challenge, including responding to physical behaviours appropriately.
- Monitor and support sensory regulation needs, including the use of specialist equipment and "in-the-moment" strategies.
- Maintain vigilant supervision at all times due to significant safety and risk factors.
- Support with personal care routines, maintaining dignity and safeguarding at all times.
- Work collaboratively with school staff, parents and external professionals, including Speech and Language Therapy.

What We Are Looking For

Essential

- Experience working with children with autism and/or complex SEND
- Ability to build strong, trusting relationships with children with high levels of need
- Calm, patient and emotionally resilient approach
- Understanding of communication difficulties and early developmental needs
- Ability to respond flexibly and adapt quickly to changing behaviours and situations
- Commitment to safeguarding and inclusion
- GCSE C or above (or equivalent)

- Working at or towards national occupational standards (NOS) in Supporting Teaching and Learning (core and relevant optional units as required) reflected in the level 2 NVQ and Level 2 certificate in supporting teaching and learning on the Qualification and Credit Framework or equivalent experience
- Communicate with pupils to support learning and development and encourage acceptable behaviour. Exchanges information with staff, parents/carers.
- Knowledge and compliance with policies and procedures relevant to child protection and health and safety.
- Setting up and use of educational equipment and/or keyboard skills.

Desirable

- Experience in Early Years settings
- Training in:
 - Makaton
 - Intensive Interaction
 - Sensory processing / regulation approaches
- Experience supporting children with behaviours that challenge

Personal Qualities

- Positive, nurturing and empathetic
- Highly observant and responsive
- Able to remain calm under pressure
- Strong teamwork skills
- Willingness to undertake additional training

Important Information About the Role

- This role requires constant supervision and proactive support for the pupil.
- There will be occasions where two adults are required to support transitions or behaviour safely.
- The successful candidate must be physically able to meet the demands of the role, including responding quickly to ensure safety.
- Flexibility and a commitment to personalised provision are essential.